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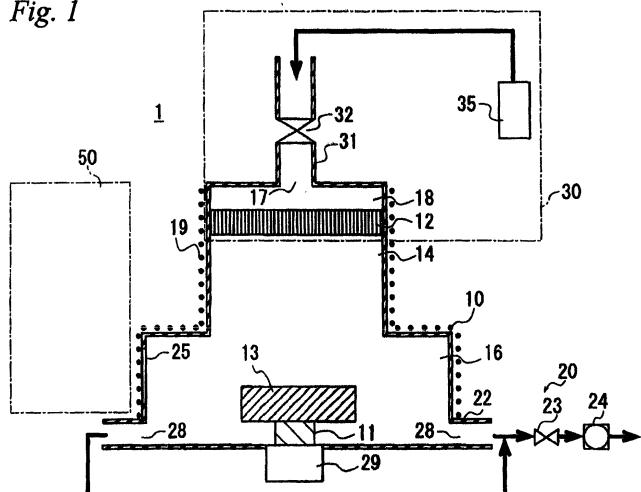
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(54) Vacuum processing apparatus

(57) A vacuum processing apparatus is capable of exhausting residual gas. With the reaction chamber (14) formed in the vacuum vessel (10) is made smaller than the assistance chamber (16), the thin film is grown by introducing the raw material gas (25) into the reaction chamber after moving the substrate stage toward the reaction chamber and decreasing the conductance of

evacuation of the reaction chamber. When exhausting the residual gas by vacuum pumping, the substrate stage is moved into the assistance chamber thereby increasing the conductance of evacuation of the reaction chamber. Pressure in the reaction chamber is increased when growing the thin film and decreases when exhausting the residual gas by vacuum pumping.

Fig. 1





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)		
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner			
MUNICH	17 October 2003	Hoyer, W			
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS					
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document					
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document					

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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